IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 25-32 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claim 1 (currently amended): A speech recognition system comprising:

a conversion circuit operative to convert a speech waveform into a digital pulse waveform; and

an analysis system that analyzes one or more characteristics of the digital pulse waveform to determine a spoken word or an unspoken word corresponding to the speech waveform from a set of selectable words, the analysis system operative to adjust a threshold level in accordance with said spoken word or said unspoken word and corresponding to converting the speech waveform into a digital pulse waveform to analyze portions of the speech waveform at different amplitude levels.

Claim 2 (original): The system of claim 1, the conversion circuit comprising a comparator that receives the speech waveform and compares the speech waveform to the threshold level provided by a threshold level shifter circuit.

Claim 3 (original): The system of claim 2, the threshold level shifter circuit operative to change the threshold level based on a state of a single digital output.

Claim 4 (original): The system of claim 2, the threshold level shifter circuit operative to modify a threshold level of the comparator at one or more threshold levels.

Claim 5 (original): The system of claim 2, the threshold level shifter circuit operative to change between three threshold levels based on a state of a single digital output having a high impedance state, a low digital state and a high digital state.

Claim 6 (original): The system of claim 2, the threshold level shifter circuit operative to change between three threshold levels based on a state of two digital signals.

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Claim 7 (original): The system of claim 1, further comprising a microphone that converts a spoken word into an electrical signal and an amplifier that amplifies the electrical signal into a speech waveform having one or more characteristics at distinguishable levels, the amplifier coupled to the comparator.

Claim 8 (original): The system of claim 1, the one or more characteristics being at least one of speech waveform modulation amplitude, speech waveform modulation frequency and speech waveform duration.

Claim 9 (original): The system of claim 1, the analysis system comprising a microcontroller programmed to analyze one or more characteristics of the digital pulse waveform and compare the one or more characteristics to stored characteristics associated with a set of words to determine the spoken word from the set of words.

Claim 10 (original): The system of claim 1, the analysis system comprising a control logic component operative to analyze one or more characteristics of the digital pulse waveform and compare the one or more characteristics to stored characteristics associated with a set of words to determine the spoken word from the set of words.

Claim 11 (currently amended): A system for distinguishing between a spoken ~~words~~ word and a unspoken word, the system comprising:

an amplifier that amplifies an electrical signal corresponding to a spoken word and provides a speech waveform having one or more characteristics at distinguishable levels;

a comparator that converts the speech waveform into a digital pulse waveform based on comparing the speech waveform to a threshold level; and

a threshold level shifter circuit that provides a voltage corresponding to the threshold level, the threshold level shifter circuit operative to provide two or more different threshold levels <u>in accordance with said spoken word or said unspoken word and</u> based on an input state of the threshold level shifter circuit.

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Claim 12 (original): The system of claim 11, the threshold level shifter circuit operative to change the threshold level based on a state of a single digital signal.

Claim 13 (original): The system of claim 11, the threshold level shifter circuit operative to modify the threshold level of the comparator at one or more threshold levels.

Claim 14 (original): The system of claim 11, the threshold level shifter circuit operative to change three threshold levels based on a state of a single digital output having a high impedance state, a low digital state and a high digital state.

Claim 15 (original): The system of claim 11, the threshold level shifter circuit operative to change between three threshold levels based on a state of two digital signals.

Claim 16 (original): The system of claim 11, further comprising a microcontroller programmed to analyze one or more characteristics of the digital pulse waveform and compare the one or more characteristics to stored word profiles associated with a set of words to determine the spoken word from the set of words.

Claim 17 (original): The system of claim 11, further comprising a microcontroller programmed to change the state of the threshold level circuit so that different portions of a speech waveform having different amplitudes can be converted to a digital pulse waveform for analysis of the one or more characteristics.

Claim 18 (original): The system of claim 17, the different portions comprising voiced portions and unvoiced portions.

Claim 19 (original): The system of claim 17, the microcontroller being programmed to determine between a word having a voiced portion and an unvoiced portion and a word having a voiced portion only.

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Claim 20 (original): The system of claim 19, the microcontroller being programmed to detect receipt of a voiced portion of a speech waveform, change the threshold level of the comparator through the threshold level circuit upon detecting receipt of a voiced portion and determine receipt of an unvoiced portion.

Claim 21 (original): The system of claim 20, the voiced portion being detected by monitoring amplitude and frequency of the speech waveform and the unvoiced portion . being detected by monitoring frequency of the speech waveform.

Claim 22 (original): The system of claim 11 being one of an electronic toy, an educational aid, an entertainment product and a communication system.

Claim 23 (currently amended): A speech recognition system comprising:
means for transforming a spoken word and a unspoken word into a speech waveform;
means for converting the speech waveform into a digital pulse waveform; and
means for shifting a threshold level in accordance with said spoken word or said unspoken word and associated with converting the speech waveform into a digital pulse waveform.

Claim 24 (original): The system of claim 23, further comprising means for analyzing one or more characteristics of the digital pulse waveform and determining the spoken word from a subset of selectable spoken words.

Claims 25-32 (cancelled).

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